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Going Green

Should 'class clowns' of science get equal coverage? pg 8

Celebrity Buzz

Anderson looking for new love pg 16

Woman, 25, killed crossing intersection

FATALITY A 25-year-old woman was killed yesterday morning after she was struck by a car at the intersection of Kerr Street and 49th Avenue in Southeast Vancouver.

Vancouver police said alcohol and speed were not factors in the crash, but do not know who had the right of way.

The accident occurred at about 12:30 a.m.

The victim, who has not been named, is the second pedestrian fatality of 2010.

METRO VANCOUVER

News on the Move

What's this barcode for?
Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 2

Comment pg 11

Ferry service feels the cold

Vancouver Games

Countdown to 2010

Follow Metro as we bring you daily coverage leading up to the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

• Today — McIvor heats up on skicross tour, page 10

ShareYourViews
vancouverletters@metronews.ca

Please recycle

Skivvies on the SkyTrain **Flash mob gets fleshy**

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Participants of Vancouver's No Pants Day flash mob event ride the SkyTrain between Broadway and Metrotown stations yesterday. Pants-free events were held on commuter trains in roughly 40 cities around the world — many of which are much colder than Vancouver. Story, page 3.

First Nations optimistic about legacy of Games

Acknowledgment, monetary deals tools to 'move forward'

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

For some, the fact that official aboriginal merchandise for the 2010 Olympics is being made in China is a slap in the face for aboriginal communities.

For others, the fact that it's getting made at all is proof that First Nations are finally getting looked in the eye.

"The level of participation hands down is going to be the legacy in that it's given us the opportunity to educate the world (about) who we are," said Justin George, the chief of the Tsleil-Waututh, one of the four bands on whose traditional territories the Games are being held.

And while acknowledgment is important, having a seat at the planning table for the Games has also been lucrative for the Squamish, Musqueam, Tseil Waututh and Lil'wat nations.

At least $54 million has been spent by the organizing committee alone on aboriginal companies involved in venue construction, with around $1 million more in procurement from aboriginal companies.

Over 200 training positions were created by Games sponsor RONA and other companies and further training programs were created in partnerships with local community colleges for Games-related jobs in hospitality.

None of the economic impact studies done about the Games have registered much by way of a boom for the four host nations — yet.

One interesting marker might be the 2011 census. Comparing the data from 2011 with data from 2006 may show whether the Olympics had an impact on any measure of First Nations life at all.

The question then becomes what's next?

Each of the bands signed cash-and-land deals worth around $20 million apiece in the last seven years in exchange for supporting the Olympics.

The Tsleil-Waututh and Squamish plan to use the resources to expand.

"We have to become modern day hunters," said George.

"In past it was bows and arrows, today it is degrees and diplomas and relationships and it's with that mindset we move forward."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sex robot specializes in pillow talk

EXPO A New Jersey company says it has developed "the world's first sex robot," a life-size rubber doll that's designed to engage the owner with conversation.

At a demonstration at the Adult Entertainment Expo in Las Vegas this weekend, the dark-haired, negligee-clad robot said "I love holding hands with you" when it sensed that its creator touched its hand.

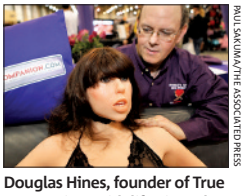
Another action, this one unprintable, elicited a different vocal response from Roxxxy the robot, with the sound coming out of an internal loudspeaker. Roxxxy can't move on its own, not even its lips, but it does have touch sensors at strategic locations. Its creator, Douglas Hines, of True Companion LLC, said the doll is meant to provide its owner someone to talk to and relate to.

Shipping is expected to start in a few months and dolls will come with personalities ranging from "Wild Wendy" to "Frigid Farrah" for about $7,000 to $9,000.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Partners

• In a 2007 book, Love and Sex with Robots, David Levy argues that robots will become significant sexual partners for humans, answering needs that other people are unable or unwilling to satisfy.



PAUL SAKUMA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Douglas Hines, founder of True Companion, with life-size rubber doll Roxxxy in Las Vegas.

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Local

Canucks see women's hockey gold: Poll

More than half of Canadians — 56 per cent — believe our women's hockey team will win gold at the Vancouver Olympics, according to Ipsos Reid. The poll found we're not as confident in our men's team, however, with 49 per cent of Canucks admitting they think the boys will win.

METRO VANCOUVER

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Immigration Guidy Mamann has advice for those who have allowed their visitor's status to expire at **metronews.ca/immigration**

Lotteries

Friday, Jan. 8
Lotto Max: 8, 17, 21, 23, 24, 28 & 39 Bonus 31
Extra: 11, 36, 58, 74
Saturday, Jan. 9
Lotto 6/49: 7, 9, 10, 27, 28 & 40 Bonus 42
BC 49: 15, 23, 27, 36, 44 & 45 Bonus 08
Extra: 14, 17, 21, 85
These results are not official.

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Woodwards **Icon returns**

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Woodwards' iconic W, seen from West Hastings Street yesterday. The Vancouver landmark was re-erected on the weekend after being taken down in 2006. The first W was put up in the 1940s.

Driver shot by Mountie

VPD begins investigation after weekend incident at Deep Cove

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

A man suffered non-life-threatening injuries after he was shot in the torso by a Mountie in Deep Cove, Vancouver police said yesterday.

The 39-year-old North Vancouver man, who is known to police, was taken into custody Saturday afternoon following the shooting, said Vancouver Const. Lindsey Houghton.

The Vancouver Police Department's major crime section is investigating the police-involved shooting portion of the incident at the request of the RCMP, said Sgt. Peter Thiessen, a spokesman for the RCMP.

The incident began at 2:30 p.m., when an RCMP officer responded to a 911 complaint about a vehicle on Mount Seymour Parkway. According to media reports, the car had struck several vehicles.

The officer, a four-year member of the RCMP, pulled the vehicle over at Deep Cove Drive and Strathcona Road.

The man got out of his car, but refused to comply with the officer's commands. The Mountie then shot the man in his torso.

The officer was not injured during the incident.

Houghton also said the officer was not armed with a Taser.

Officer faces impaired-driving charges

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

CRIME An off-duty Mountie, who was arrested twice by Vancouver police, has been charged with numerous alcohol and driving offences following a car crash on the Second Narrows Bridge in October.

Vernon James Wilson, 55, a constable based out of the RCMP's E-Division headquarters in Vancouver, appeared in provincial court on Friday.

He was charged with nine counts, including two of impaired driving causing bodily harm, from a pair of incidents this fall.

Wilson was arrested Oct. 3 after an early morning car crash on the Vancouver side of the Iron Worker's Memorial Bridge. Two passengers sustained minor injuries in the crash.

He was charged with eight counts in relation to that crash. He is also charged with driving while prohibited following a second incident on Nov. 7.

The constable was re-assigned to administrative duties following the first incident and was suspended with pay after the second, according to media reports.

News in brief

REPORTER The funeral for Vancouver-born journalist Michelle Lang will take place today at the Italian Cultural Centre at 2 p.m. The Calgary Herald reporter was killed alongside four Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan by a roadside bomb on Dec. 30.

SOLDIER Firefighters, paramedics and civilians gathered along overpasses on Highway 99 this weekend to pay their respects to Langley's Pte. Garrett Chidley, who was killed in Afghanistan last month. He will be buried in Surrey tomorrow.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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CBC

Stylists dole out cheap cuts for hospital fundraiser
More than 20 hair stylists volunteered at "cut-a-thon" fundraiser yesterday at Richmond Centre. Cuts were a minimum $20 donation for men, $30 for women and all proceeds benefited the Wigs for Kids program at B.C. Children's Hospital. METRO VANCOUVER

No pants, no problem on transit

"Hi. You're here for taking off your pants?" Larry Piche said, greeting people at the Broadway SkyTrain Station for a fleshy flash mob he organized for No Pants Day yesterday.

Around 30 people stripped to their skivvies to the surprise of SkyTrain commuters yesterday afternoon as part of an annual — and growing — event that started on New York City's subway system nine years ago.

Similar pants-free flashmobs happened in about 40 cities around the world, including Toronto, Calgary and Seattle.

"We wanted to get people out doing free, fun things and put a smile on peoples' faces," said Piche, who's with Vancouver Improv Anywhere.

"We're lucky it's only 10 C (here), not -10 C."

KRISTEN THOMPSON/ METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

LOST BOY A 14-year-old boy who became lost on a school field trip on Sumas Mountain said he called for help for hours before he was found cold, but otherwise unhurt.

POLICE There were 960 allegations of police misconduct against B.C. municipal police officers in 2009, according to the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner.

CHARGES RCMP have charged a Kelowna man in an alleged hit and run that killed a man on New Year's Day. George Nicholas Young faces a second-degree murder charge after a 30-year-old died after being hit by a minivan. METRO VANCOUVER

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UBC hoping to save $8M on printing
The University of B.C. hopes to save $8 million and cut its paper waste by 26 per cent through a new document management initiative with Xerox. The university spends $18 to $20 million a year on printing. METRO VANCOUVER

Thieves hold up restaurant

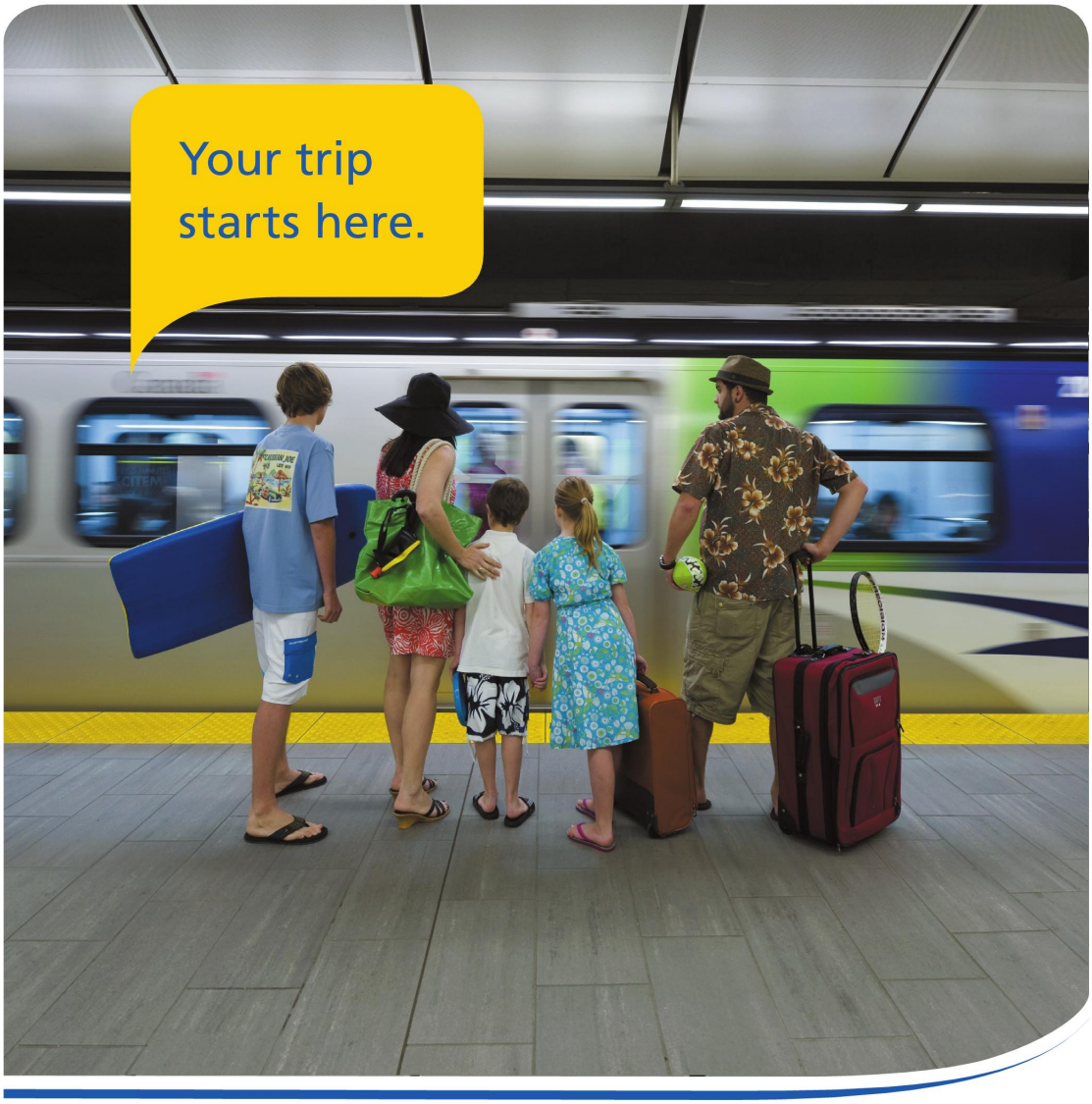
STIG NIELSEN
for Metro Vancouver

Armed robbers bound and gagged employees at a Yaletown restaurant before stealing jewelry and cash from a safe, Vancouver police said.

Two men wielding handguns used the rear entrance to enter Section (3), a restaurant on Mainland Street, around noon on Jan. 3. Once inside they tied up a male and a female employee and forced them to keep quiet, Const. Jana McGuinness said in a release. The thieves then broke open the restaurant's safe and stole a range of jewelry and cash before fleeing in a two-door, dark-coloured car.

Sharply dressed

- Both robbers were wearing suits.



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NBC likely to lose cash for broadcasting Games: Exec

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

TV NBC Universal says it expects to lose money on the upcoming Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

NBC Sports chief Dick Ebersol says advertising sales for the Games have picked up over the past few months.

He said the loss is more due to the heavy rights fee NBC paid to show the event. NBC won the rights to broadcast the Vancouver Olympics and the 2012 Summer Games in London for $2.6 billion.

The head of NBC's parent company, General Electric's Jeffrey Immelt, told investors that he expected NBC would lose millions of dollars on the games. NBC and its cable companies will begin showing the games Feb. 12. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

SHELTER A controversial homeless shelter under the Granville Bridge reached its full 40-person capacity only three days after it re-opened, the city said yesterday. The shelter is the second of four that will open this winter. Others are planned for the West End and Kitsilano.

ART Vancouver artist Ken Lum's Monument For East Vancouver is expected to be erected this afternoon on the corner of Sixth Avenue and Clark Drive. The artwork features a large crossed Van and East done in LED lights. It is part of the city's Olympic public art program.

STABBING A man in his 30s was taken to hospital with non-life-threatening stab wounds following a domestic dispute in the 2500 block of Kingsway yesterday morning.

GROW-OPS RCMP have raided five houses believed to be marijuana grow-ops in Nanaimo. The "green team," which consists of more than 40 officers, found bunkers used for grow-ops in all five homes, leading to the arrests of six people on Friday. The amount of drugs seized has yet to be released. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Canadian gets reprieve from death sentence in Saudi Arabia
A Montreal man who was sentenced to die by decapitation in Saudi Arabia for his role in a fatal schoolyard brawl three years ago has received a reprieve in the form of a retrial. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Short Hill sittings a thing of the past

If Canadians are piqued about the prorogation of Parliament, it might be because they're not looking back to the days of steam train and buggy travel for their comparison, as the prime minister appears to be.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper shrugs off his decision to put an end to a messy parliamentary session as a "routine" matter.

Harper's officials have argued that historically the average parliamentary session has lasted 109 sitting days, while the one that just ended lasted 128 days.

True, in the 144 parliamentary sessions since Confederation in 1867, MPs in the Commons have logged an average of about 105 sitting days per session.

But perhaps a more relevant comparison might be the average parliamentary session in the modern era — or, say, the prime minister's lifetime.

Harper is 50 and in that time, airline travel has made it easier for MPs to sit in the legislature. In the 39 parliamentary sessions over the last 50 years, the average parliamentary session for MPs sitting in the Commons lasted 173 days.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

TIGER A 66-year-old man from southern Ontario is dead after he was mauled by a 650 pound tiger he kept on his property. The victim has been identified as Norman Buwalda.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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ScanLife

Scott Thompson talks hitting "rock bottom" and beating cancer on the road to Kids in the Hall reunion. Scan this code for the full story.

Halifax Oh Canada

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rapper Classified, from Enfield, N.S., shoots a video for his song, Oh Canada, in downtown Halifax yesterday.

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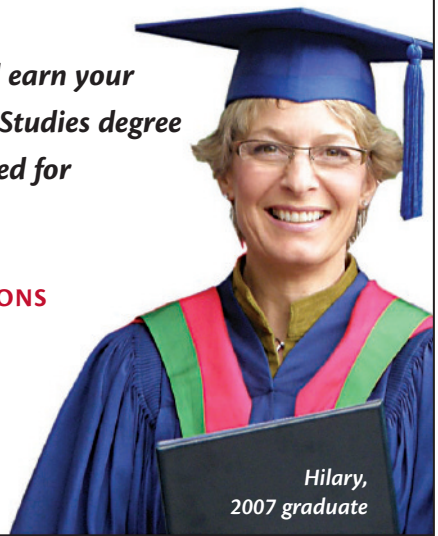

INFORMATION SESSIONS

SFU Surrey, 5:30 pm
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Canwest seeks newspaper selloffs
The cross-country newspaper chain run by Canwest Global Communications has fallen into the hands of the insolvent company's banks as it seeks to sell its big-city dailies. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Business in brief

SALE Investors battered shares of Arabtec Holding yesterday after the Dubai construction giant, which helped build the world's tallest tower, agreed to sell a controlling stake to a state-run investment fund in neighbouring Abu Dhabi. Arabtec shares plunged 6.9 per cent on the first full trading day since details of the deal with Aabar Investments became public. Analysts say the investment's structure could cut the value of stakes held by existing shareholders. Despite investors' doubts, Arabtec could benefit over the long term.

TRADING China overtook Germany as the world's top exporter after December exports jumped 17.7 per cent for their first increase in 14 months, data showed, in another sign of China's rise as a global economic force. Exports for the last month of 2009 were $130.7 billion US, data from the General Administration of Customs showed. That raised total 2009 exports to $1.2 trillion, ahead of the $1.17 trillion for Germany forecast by its foreign trade organization, BGA. China's new status is largely symbolic but reflects the ability of its resilient, low-cost manufacturers to keep selling. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Forces eye robots

Don't expect them to say "Hasta la vista, baby," but the robotic armoured vehicles and pilotless aircraft being developed by Canada's military scientists may one day be able to think for themselves.

The aim of the project by Canada's defence research branch, launched last fall, is to improve on the current generation of remote-controlled devices designed for the battlefield.

It may sound like something from the Terminator films, but defence scientists say what they're doing is a long way from the world envisioned by the science fiction action flicks that made California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger a household name.

Franklin Wong, who leads the project at Canadian Forces Base Valcartier, Que., says the vehicles under study are not meant for combat but rather surveillance.

"That's a very important capability that we're looking for," Wong said in a recent interview.

"Many of our projects (at Defence Research Canada) are geared towards the surveillance aspect."

The Canadian military currently employs Israeli-made Heron unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to patrol bomb-infested roads and provide early warning of ambushes for troops on the ground in Afghanistan.

The Heron is capable of carrying weapons, but the Conservative government as recently as last spring turned down a request by the air force to install missiles on the drones that are controlled by pilots on the ground at a base station. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Wireless charging, 3-D and Polaroid's comeback among the highlights of CES 2010. Scan this code for the full story.

No serious injuries after powerful California quake
An offshore 6.5 magnitude earthquake rattled communities in northern California Saturday, cutting power to thousands of customers, causing minor damage to homes and businesses and forcing many people to seek treatment for cuts and bruises from falling debris. THE ASSOCIATED PRESSS

World

Balloon dad changing his story

The father who orchestrated the balloon boy hoax is taking advantage of his final days of freedom by making rounds on news shows and saying that he is innocent. Authorities are not amused by Richard Heene's media blitz, and legal experts say he should be careful about thumbing his nose at the system. Heene, left, now says there was no hoax, even though he pleaded guilty and agreed to be sentenced to 90 days in jail. The interviews are pushing the boundaries of conditions of his probation that he not profit in any way from his newfound fame for four years. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

MALAYSIA Eight Christian churches have been attacked over three days amid a dispute over the use of the word "Allah" by non-Muslims. Many Muslims are angry about a court decision overturning a government ban on Roman Catholics' using "Allah" to refer to their God.

AFGHANISTAN An explosion outside a village yesterday killed a U.S. Marine and a war correspondent who became the first British journalist killed in the conflict. With the death of Sunday Mirror journalist Rupert Hamer, 18 reporters have been killed in Afghanistan since the 2001 invasion. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

m.metronews.ca

Unearthed tombs in Egypt shed light on how the labourers who built the pyramids lived. Scan this code for the full story.

New Jersey **Landing gear failure**

KATHY WILLENS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A United Airlines Airbus sits at Newark Liberty International Airport after making an emergency landing yesterday. Landing gear problems were blamed. All 53 people aboard the flight from Chicago were safely evacuated, and no injuries were reported.

Pakistani violence on rise

Dozens of people have been killed in Pakistan's largest city, including four found yesterday — three of them headless — in a wave of targeted attacks among rival political groups that some say is aimed at destabilizing the country's ruling coalition.

Political violence is common in Karachi, but the shootings and decapitations since Jan. 1 have terrorized parts of this teeming metropolis, prompting the government to send in paramilitary forces to restore order.

The growing unrest in the financial capital threatens to spark further instability. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Getting greener electronics

The annual Consumer Electronics Show continued to put a spotlight on green products this year. For the best exhibitors offering green products visit cesweb.org. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Going Green

EDITOR: BEN.RYCROFT@METRONEWS.CA

Climate science no joke

Balanced approach not always the best choice

Eco-Minded

ANJA NIEDRINGHAUS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Balanced reporting on climate science can be hard to comeby, says our Eco-Minded columnist.

Climate change is the most pressing environmental issue of the century. Without a dramatic about-face in international and national policy, the world risks catastrophic environmental change. Although this has been known among scientists, many people continue to be blasé about climate change. Why?

This murder mystery has no single villain and no smoking gun. We all share the burden of responsibility. Environmental scientists lack expertise in communication. Powerful fossil fuel industries spend many vast sums of money creating confusion through marketing and "think tanks." Politicians worry about the next election cycle, not the next generation.

Journalists are trained to present both sides of any story and credentials of those quoted, and to leave it to readers to decide what to believe. This is a crucial element of journalism that has generally served society well. Ironically, however, striving for balance in reporting actually promotes an unbalanced perspective of climate science. This approach often fails when reporting on scientific issues.

In science, experts gain reputations based on their record of weighing complex sets of evidence in unbiased, insightful ways. Other scientists operate as rebels and sometimes class clowns: they draw attention to themselves by challenging prevailing ideas, sometimes with scant evidence to back up their own. Rebels play a crucial role in improving science, class clowns less so.

The problem with media reporting climate change is that too often journalists give equal weight to the class clowns as the well-respected experts, without sufficiently reporting the weight of evidence and scientific opinion. Despite occasional appearances, science is not a circus, but society's greatest sleuth and source of innovation.

Still to come...

- To counter this gap in media reporting of climate change, we'll publish a series debunking common arguments of climate skeptics.

Kai Chan is an assistant professor and Canada Research Chair at the Institute for Resources, Environment, and Sustainability (IRES) at UBC; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

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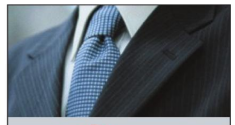

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Going Green Tips

CAR EMISSIONS Many cars put on weight without their owners realizing it. All sorts of things gradually accumulate inside, under the seats, in the glove box, in the trunk and throughout the car. Fifty kilograms of extra weight in the car will increase the fuel consumption by one or two per cent, so help your car lose its love handles, throw out the rubbish and reduce your emissions.

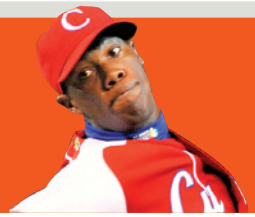
IDLING Don't idle. Any stop longer than 10 seconds will save you gas. The federal government's Office of Energy Efficiency says the average Canadian idles their car for five minutes a day, not counting warming it up on cold mornings. But cutting that out, you'll save about 42 litres a year — the equivalent of 101 kgs of greenhouse gas emissions.

BIRTHDAY GIFTS Have a family birthday coming up? Ask for only second-hand gifts from those that will be attending and giving gifts. Go so far as to specify that on your invites. Need inspiration? For every can of garbage you put out, 70 cans are made upstream to produce that product, according to Annie Leonard's The Story of Stuff. And if you're kid objects, tell them it's all the rage in California

BABY WIPES If you are a parent of a young child, chuck your baby wipes. Most contain propylene glycol, a derivative of natural gas and hormone-disrupting parabens, according to Gillian Deacon's Green For Life. Instead, try wiping your baby's bum with small washcloths and warm water. Keep a thermos nearby just for that. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Wishful thinking
Ben Rycroft offers up some stories he'd like to read about Canadian soccer this year at **metronews.ca/justsoccer**

Sports



Chapman signs with Cincinnati

Cuban left-hander Aroldis Chapman has agreed to a deal with the Cincinnati Reds. With a 100 m.p.h. fastball, he is considered by scouts to be among the top pitching prospects in the world. Chapman threw a bullpen session for major league teams in Houston last month, and the Toronto Blue Jays, Florida Marlins and Boston Red Sox were also thought to be among his suitors. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Cardinals beat Packers in OT

NFL's next round takes shape

It took a few extra minutes, but the lineup for the divisional round of the NFL playoffs is set.

The Arizona Cardinals beat the Green Bay Packers 51-45 in overtime yesterday on Karlos Dansby's 17-yard fumble return for a touchdown to round out the field. Earlier, the Baltimore Ravens routed the Patriots 33-14.

Arizona (11-6) will face the NFC's top seed, the Saints (13-3), in New Orleans on Saturday. The reward for Baltimore (10-7) is playing the AFC's top seed, taking on the Colts (14-2) later Saturday in Indianapolis.

The Ravens' win at New England sends the Jets to San Diego. A Cowboys-Vikings matchup in Minnesota already was set after Dallas won a playoff game for the first time since 1996 on Saturday night.

m.metronews.ca
SCANLIFE
Solid QB play and strong D prove to be the winning formula for the Dallas Cowboys. Scan this code for the full story.

The Jets, Ravens and Cowboys all made statements this weekend that they're in top form. The Cardinals seemed poised to do the same when they raced out to a 17-0 first-quarter lead. But the Packers (11-6) scored three fourth-quarter touchdowns to send the game to overtime.

"That's probably one of the best games ever played in the playoffs," Cardinals coach Ken Whisenhunt said.

The Ravens face the AFC South champion Colts in a rematch of their meeting in Baltimore on Nov. 22. Indy won 17-15 in a game in which its defence held the Ravens to a field goal after it had first-and-goal at the one-yard line in the fourth quarter.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MATT YORK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Green Bay quarterback Aaron Rodgers watches Arizona's Karlos Dansby (58) run back a fumble after Rodgers was hit by Michael Adams during overtime yesterday. Arizona won 51-45.

Sports in brief

FIGHT Manny Pacquiao will fight March 13 at Cowboys Stadium, but not against Floyd Mayweather Jr. Pacquiao promoter Bob Arum said yesterday he has finalized a deal to match Pacquiao against Joshua Clottey in a welterweight bout at the new $1.2-billion US stadium. Arum moved swiftly to land a lucrative fight for his star after his negotiations for a megafight with Mayweather fell apart. METRO NEWS SERVICES

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Carolina 4 Ottawa 1
Anaheim 3 Chicago 1
Columbus 2 Dallas 0
Tampa Bay 4 New Jersey 2

TODAY'S GAMES
Pittsburgh at Minnesota
Colorado at Calgary
Nashville at VANCOUVER
San Jose at Los Angeles

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
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Shouldice one step closer

Calgary's Warren Shouldice helped his Olympic chances yesterday, finishing sixth at a World Cup men's aerial competition. Shouldice, the only Canadian to qualify for the final, finished with a two-jump total of 210.43 points in front of a boisterous crowd in Calgary. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver Games

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

McIvor leads Canadian charge

B.C. native wins gold, two teammates take silver at World Cup skicross event

Ashleigh McIvor won gold to help Canada to a three-medal day at a World Cup skicross event yesterday.

McIvor finished ahead of teammate Julia Murray in the women's final. Canada's Stanley Hayer added a silver in the men's event.

"What was nice about today's win was I didn't advance because someone crashed," McIvor said. "It was all good strong starts and good strong skiing.

"It was really nice to come back to Les Contamines and finally race some air and some off camber doubles with good terrain and good flow. It's one of those courses that when you get to the bottom, you want to go do it again."

Olympic debut

- Skicross, which features a mass start and head-to-head racing on a course with turns, bumps, jumps and rolls, will make its Olympic debut next month at the Vancouver Games.

With the victory, McIvor rose to second in the overall standings with 247 points. Six-time overall World Cup champ Ophelie David of France was fourth to retain the overall lead with 290 points.

"I was kind of in shock when my teammate and I were in first and second," Murray said. "I was really excited."

McIvor and Murray are from Whistler, B.C.

Kelsey Serwa of Kelowna, B.C., was ninth, Danielle Poleschuk of Calgary was 10th and Aleisha Cline of Squamish, B.C., was 12th.

Hayer, of Calgary, finished behind Xavier Kuhn of France in the men's final.

Hayer said the Canadian team's mood is good heading into the Vancouver Games.

"It's a heavy weight on the shoulders but the mood on the team isn't too bad," he said. "We're racing against each other but we're also racing against the other freestyle disciplines and everyone is so good."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHRISTOPHE PALLOT/AGENCE ZOOM/GETTY IMAGES

Ashleigh McIvor of Canada takes first place during a World Cup skicross event yesterday in Les Contamines, France.

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Comment

Commuters slow to embrace new ferry

InTransit

Derek Moscato
dmoscato@yahoo.com

A new passenger ferry service connecting West Vancouver to downtown could be sailing into a financial fog. That's because passengers aren't using the privately run service — at least not in high enough numbers to make the inlet crossing viable for the long run.

The situation has left the owner of Coastal Link Ferries justifiably concerned. But give Capt. Ihab Shaker this: He is nothing if not persistent.

While passenger counts are still underwater, Shaker's attitude is decidedly up.

"These things take time," he told me last week. "This is not a race, this is a marathon, and I am committed for the long haul."

I believe him. That's because Shaker, a Master Mariner who previously operated ferry services on Lake Ontario and the Red Sea, has been through this before.

About a year ago, I visited Shaker's plucky ferry — then connecting Snug Cove on Bowen Island directly to Coal Harbour — before it had caught on with commuters. The situation at the time was similar. Ridership was soft partly because would-be passengers weren't enthused about being on a boat during winter weather.

As the weather improved through spring and summer, however, Shaker's ridership on the Bowen route tripled. Passenger counts have since remained stronger.

But warmer days alone won't boost traffic this time around. Infrastructure is also needed. A lack of shelter at the West Vancouver dock has left some customers, well, cold. And wet. "People do not want to stand in the open — especially in the winter — waiting for the boat," he said.

Shaker is now making his case to West Vancouver's municipal government to build some kind of cover for ferry passengers at the Ambleside dock. He is also encouraging commuters to bus, walk or catch a ride to the facility to alleviate parking concerns.

Meanwhile, the gutsy entrepreneur is launching new passenger services in the coming months.

During the Winter Olympics, he will be operating an hourly loop ferry service, connecting Granville Island, West Vancouver, and downtown.

And on March 1, he will launch a long anticipated foot ferry service connecting the Sunshine Coast to downtown.

As for folks from the North Shore thinking about taking the Coastal Link ferry for the first time?

Use it or lose it. But don't blame Shaker for a lack of commuting options across Burrard Inlet.

Derek Moscato is a writer with a focus on urban issues, transportation, architecture and economics; dmoscato@yahoo.com.

Views

Exercise caution when battling the bulge

HineSight

Anne Hines
metronews.ca/hinesight

This time of year it seems as if someone is throwing diet and exercise information at us every time we turn around (which, by the way, burns .00324 calories).

In the past, it was generally accepted that if you wanted to trim down a bit, you simply had to eat a little less and exercise a little more. Nowadays, we can see the obvious flaw in this system. No one can make money from it.

Before you start shedding cash in order to shed pounds, here's what you need to know:

Home gym systems: Many experts say that exercising at home can be fun and easy. We do not believe them, of course. However, if you are planning to buy home gym equipment, it's important to choose something that will suit your lifestyle in the long term. Ask yourself: "Will this elliptical trainer be good for hanging clothes on come March when I don't want to see it again?"

Gym memberships: Choosing a gym you will actually use is all about location. I myself always choose something near a doughnut shop. That way I can announce, "I'm going to the gym" as I head out for a French cruller. You may want to consider hiring a personal trainer. These are people whose job is to make you hurt in every area of your body. If they wore leather boots, it would probably be illegal.

Exercise/diet books: Bookstore shelves are crammed with helpful titles such as Taylor Swift's Guide to Perfectly Toned Thighs ("Be 20 years old.") or The Miracle of Losing Weight by Never Eating Again. Diet books can be very useful, but only if what you use them for is to strap them to your ankles on long walks. Otherwise, they simply take up valuable desk space, which you'll need for the lamp you fashion out of your unused Ab-buster.

My choice? This year, I think I'll try exercising my common sense instead of my credit card. I'm going to walk a little more, eat my veggies and cut down (but not out) on chips and sweets. Will I be thin in 2010? Maybe. But the advice I'm going with is this:

"Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well-preserved body; but rather to skid in sideways, chocolate in one hand, chai in the other, body totally worn out, screaming 'Woo hoo, what a ride!'"

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

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McGill earth and planetary sciences department awarded $4 million gift

McGill University has received a $4.1 million donation from alumnus Robert Wares and his company, Osisko Mining Corporation, in support of students and junior faculty members in McGill's Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Canada's PhD production low

In its report How Canada Performs: A Report Card in Canada, the Conference Board of Canada awarded the country an "A" in education and skills, up from a "B" in 2008. In comparison to 16 other developed nations, Canada came in second to Finland in overall education and skills outcomes. However, Canada ranked last in terms of educating and graduating doctoral students, earning a "D" in this category. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Artist at heart, pricing by trade

Appraiser, of Antiques Roadshow fame, knows the cost of anything

When you love to draw and paint growing up, you can't help but dream of becoming a professional artist.

But halfway through her degree in visual arts at York University, Charlotte McGhee, now 34, decided being a starving artist wasn't for her. She transferred into cultural studies, hoping that would lead to a career.

It did. After graduation and a year teaching English abroad, she came home and found posting for a research assistant at a Toronto company that appraised art and antiques for insurance.

"I just have to get this," McGhee told herself. Her knowledge of art got her hired on the spot.

For seven years, she learned on the job. Senior staff members would go out and look at a piece of china, art, furniture or jewelry, and come back with photographs and notes. McGhee's job would be to compare their information to the materials in the company's extensive library, and write up a report for an insurance company on the object and its estimated value.

As the years passed, McGhee got quicker and more knowledgeable, and soon was doing field work too. In 2006, the Canadian Antiques Roadshow on CBC needed a fine art expert, and called her in. She worked on the last two seasons of the show.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Charlotte McGhee is a professional appraiser.

Around that time, she left her job and started M&G Appraisals (the G is for her husband Wade Gaudette, who helps her out sometimes but mainly works as a chef) out of her home in Orillia.

She does appraisals for insurance purposes, but also to help settle estates when someone has died, and to divide assets in a divorce. Sometimes, people are just curious about the value of their possessions.

Once or twice a week, McGhee attends auctions, mainly to keep herself current on the latest fads and prices. As well, she collects herself and sells a little too, so she'll often buy.

She divides the rest of her time between visiting client's homes to either do on-the-spot appraisals ("I have a huge database in my head, I can give pretty accurate quotes") or to take photographs and notes.

Then, at home, she consults her library of books and the various electronic databases she subscribes to find comparable items to aid her in writing a report about the item and its estimated value.

Being around all these antique treasures all the time has its pitfalls. ". I have closets stacked with art: I don't know what to do with it all."

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

OddJobs

Diane Peters

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Peering into the PR world

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Telling stories the right way and making sure they are heard is what Pat McNamara does best.

As founder and CEO of APEX Public Relations Inc., McNamara, 52, is known for being honest and straightforward in an industry often caricatured as being neither of those things. She's also been recognized as one of Canada's Top 100 Women Entrepreneurs and says what keeps her motivated and successful is a focus on trust and lasting relationships.

"The business I'm in is a lot about relationships. I don't think clients ultimately buy on price. Particularly in the service business, people want good relationships — they want to work with people they like," McNamara said.

Born in London, Ont., McNamara studied journalism in Calgary after getting an undergraduate degree from the University of Western Ontario. Like a lot of young journalists, she switched to public relations to get steady work and spent 16 years working for different agencies before deciding to branch out on her own.

When she started APEX in 1998 she was the sole employee in a small office, buying furniture on the same day new clients were walking in the door. McNamara even pretended to be her own receptionist once when a call came in because she didn't want an important client to think she had no secretary.

At the time, a recession was in full swing and the tech bubble hadn't yet burst, yet APEX found the year 2000 to be its best growth year in large part because while other PR firms were crumbling under the weight of economic hardships, McNamara's firm was revving up to take on clients.

Now, years later, McNamara's company numbers more than 30 employees and is a growing force in Canada. McNamara credits a lot of that growth to the increasing importance of good public relations management in a world where information travels faster than ever.

"PR used to be a 'nice to have,' now it's a 'have to have.' Public scrutiny is huge today so it's in the best interest of a company to be as transparent as possible and tell their story," she said.

McNamara's best piece of advice for budding entrepreneurs? Don't go it alone.

"I'm a really big proponent of good advisors because it's absolutely impossible to be good at everything."

RAFAEL BRUSILOW/FOR METRO CANADA

Pat McNamara studied journalism, but like a lot of journalists, switched into public relations.

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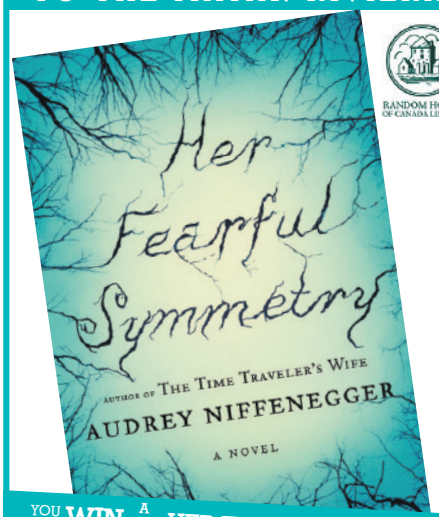

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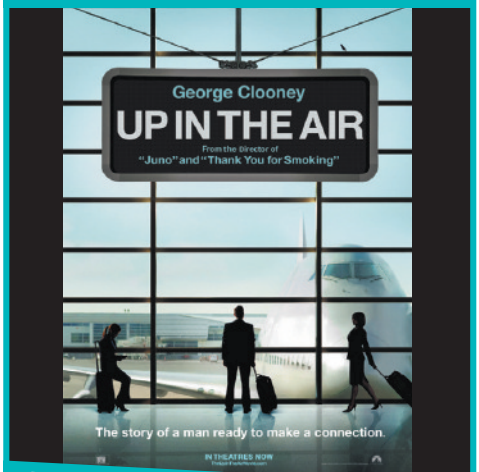
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Leno returns to old slot

NBC confirmed that the Jay Leno prime-time experiment is over. NBC TV Chairman Jeff Gaspin says NBC wants Leno to do an 11:35 p.m. show each night, starting in February. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Kids tickled to Death

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada

When it comes to the high concept, cross-dressing, sacred cow killing comedy troupe The Kids in the Hall, "conventional" is a word that simply does not stick.

Death Comes to Town premieres tomorrow night on CBC Television

The celebrated Canadian counter-culture sketch-com heroes rose out of the clubs, eventually aligning themselves with Saturday Night Live producer Lorne Michaels in the 1980s and launching a wild, often controversial television series that lasted six glorious seasons on both CBC and HBO.

Now, after a 15-year absence, the Kids return to the airwaves with the new eight-part CBC miniseries Death Comes to Town, a dark, deliriously absurd show that blends the small town quirk of Corner Gas with the gothic, grand feel of the Final Destination films — all interpreted through the Kids' trademark abstract comedy sensibilities.

"We started writing a lot during our last live tour in 2008," says original member Mark McKinney who has the honour of playing the scythe wielding Grim Reaper. "It really kind of reignited that spark, that serious interest in actually doing TV again."

Death Comes to Town sees McKinney's disgruntled wraith accidentally ending up in the fictional backwater town of Shuckton, Ont., and inadvertently becoming embroiled in the often sordid lives of the local yokels. But unlike any previous screen treatments of the Reaper, McKinney's Death is less grim and more rockstar chic.

Mark McKinney plays the Grim Reaper in Death Comes to Town.

"He's on a lousy route," he says. "He literally gets off this Greyhound bus into this crappy little town and has to deal with all this bizarre characters. Originally, I was full on Reaper but it just didn't feel right. So we stripped it back, made him edgier, more outrageous."

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 1/11/10	251	308	3 CBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	18 to Life (N)	Little Mosque	Winnipeg Comedy		CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	254	-	8 OMNI	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Omni News: Mandarin Edition		News: Cantonese Edition		Omni News: Punjabi Edition		The Simpsons
	250	321	9 CTV	etalk (CC)	Access H.	The Mentalist (N) (CC)		Two/Half Men	Big Bang	CSI: Miami "Show Stopper"		CTV News
	-	-	10 JOY	Frasier (CC)	The Insider	Daily Weekend Edition (CC)		Poltergeist: The Legacy		P3	Ek Noor	New Day
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	House "The Down Low" (N)		Lie to Me (CC)		Heroes "Close to You" (N)		News
	256	389	12 VI	Degrassi: TNG	TMZ (N) (CC)	Tough Love (CC)		Fringe "Unearthed" (N) (CC)		Castle "A Rose for Everafter"		A News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	Chuck (N) (CC)		The Bachelor: On the Wings of Love (N) (CC)				The Jay Leno Show (N) (CC)		The CityNews
	-	-	14 CW	The Office	The Office	One Tree Hill (CC)		Gossip Girl (CC)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	How I Met	Accidentally	Two/Half Men	Big Bang	CSI: Miami "Show Stopper"		KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Chuck (N) (CC)		Heroes "Close to You" (N)		The Jay Leno Show (N) (CC)		KING 5 News
	602	568	19 W	Supernanny "Gorbea Family"		Dine With Me	How Clean Is	Love It or List It "Gallagher"		Love It or List It		Confidential
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Bachelor: On the Wings of Love (N) (CC)				Castle "A Rose for Everafter"		KOMO 4 News
	-	-	23 KVOS	M*A*S*H	Seinfeld	The Day My Parents Ran Away ★ (1993) Blair Brown.				Seinfeld	King	Cheers (CC)
	291	383	27 PBS	Conver-KCTS	Antiques	Antiques Roadshow (N) (CC)		American Masters (N) (CC)		American Masters (CC)		Cliff Mass
	290	382	28 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	House "The Down Low" (N)		Fringe "Unearthed" (N) (CC)		Q13 FOX News at Ten (N)		Family Guy
	-	364	45 PBS	American Masters (CC)		Being Served	Keeping Up	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)		Antiques Roadshow (CC)	
	296	654	54 SBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	The Office	Name Is Earl	South Park	Half & Half	Bring Wall St	Street Court	Cold Files
	298	653	55 TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	One Tree Hill (CC)		Gossip Girl (CC)		KTLA 5 News at 10 (N) (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	56 WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	According/Jim	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Maury Paternity-test results.	
	297	652	57 WPX	PIX News at Ten Tong. (N)		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	According/Jim	Family Guy	South Park	Scrubs (CC)
	199	311	76 STR	CTV News	NTV Latenight News		Late Show W/Letterman		Late Late Show/Ferguson		Inside Edition	Seinfeld
news	502	390	23 NW	World's Oldest Moms (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		World's Oldest Moms (CC)		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	Canucks	NHL Hockey Nashville Predators at Vancouver Canucks. (Subject to Blackout)					Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	SportsCentre	That's Hockey	SportsCentre	Off the Record	Triathlon: Ironman		Billiards		SportsCentre
	411	457	49 OLN	Ghost Hunters (CC)		Destination Truth (CC)		Operate-Repo	Operate-Repo	Ghost Hunters (CC)		Ghost Hunters
	410	403	54 SCR	WWE Monday Night RAW		Score Now	Score Now	WWE Monday Night RAW With Michael Cole and Jerry Lawler.				Cabby Unlimit
	417	406	55 SC	Barrett-Jackson		Car Crazy	Pass Time	SuperCars	SuperCars	Barrett-Jackson		Auctions
	416	409	144 GLF	(6:00) Fútbol Brasileño		Off the Pitch	Gol TV News	Off the Pitch	Game Cap	Paid Program	Gol TV News	Gol TV News
family	552	543	25 YTV	Scorpion	Scorpion	Malcolm-Mid.	Hates Chris	8 Rules	What I Like	Family Biz	To Be Indie	Prank Patrol
	555	545	50 TEL	Scooby-Doo	Total Drama	Total Drama	6TEEN	Futurama	King of Hill	American Dad	Futurama	Chicken
	557	541	51 FAM	Sonny Chance	Suite Life	Overruled!	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
	553	546	53 TRE	Babar (CC)	Big & Small	Max & Ruby	Dragon	Backyard	Ni Hao	Go, Diego, Go!	(:35) Franklin	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Recreat. Eden	Landscape	Monarchy "Empire" (CC)		Emily in Japan (N) (CC)		Fixing My Brain (CC)		Banff Nat'l
	575	583	20 CMT	Days of Thunder ★★ (1990) Tom Cruise. Premiere. Upstart stock-car driver goes to the edge.						Days of Thunder ★★ (1990) Tom Cruise.		
	570	580	24 MM	Video on Trial	Video on Trial	MuchOnDemand (CC)		America's Best Dance Crew		MuchVibe		Spotlight
	600	564	25 H&G	House Hunt	House	Holmes on Homes (CC)		Marriage	Income Prop.	For Rent	My First Place	House Hunt
	615	520	31 A&E	Hoarders Hobbyist hoards. (N)		Paranormal State (CC)		(:01) Intervention "Gabe V."		(:01) Intervention "Jackie"		(:01) Hoarders
	628	584	32 SPKE	(6:00) UFC Fight Night (Live)		Wild World	MANswers	UFC Fight Night				MANswers
	521	560	34 TLC	BBQ Pitmasters (CC)		Little People	Little People	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	BBQ Pitmasters (CC)		Little People
	616	522	35 SHO	Relic Hunter (CC)		Seventeen and Missing (2007, Drama) Deedee Pfeiffer. (CC)				Bones "Titan on the Tracks"		NCIS (CC)
	620	523	40 BVO	Death-Venice	Glee Club	Law & Order "Virtue" (CC)		Without a Trace "Heartbeats"		Smash-Up: The Story of a Woman ★★★		
	601	562	41 SLC	Love Inc.	Love Inc.	ET Canada	What	Real Housewives of Jersey		Real Housewives OC		Runway
	520	505	42 DIS	Dirty Jobs (N)		Daily Planet (CC)		MythBusters (CC)		Dirty Jobs		Man vs. Wild
	522	506	44 HIS	Massacre at Verrieres Ridge		Greatest Tank Battles (CC)		Lost Worlds (CC)		Shockwave (CC)		Tank Battles
	627	528	45 SPC	(6:00) Path of Destruction (CC)		Stargate SG-1 "Upgrades"		Star Trek: Next Gener.		Lost "The Little Prince" (CC)		Path
	294	650	47 TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	Lopez Tonight (N)		Name Is Earl	Name Is Earl	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	Lopez Tonight
	619	525	48 TROP	Re-Vamped Sore and tired.		Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Flipping Out (CC)		Launch My Line (CC)		Prod. Parker
	603	561	58 FN	Pitchin' In	Glutton	Restaurant Makeover (CC)		Diner, Drive-In	Unwrapped	Top Chef Masters (CC)		Pitchin' In
	-	-	59 AMC	(5:00) Spy Game ★★ (2001)		The Jewel of the Nile ★★ (1985) Michael Douglas, Kathleen Turner. (CC)					Running Scared ★★★ (1986)	
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Comedy Central's Hot List		Daily Show
	320	621	60 CEN	(6:25) The Building (2009)		Dexter "Blinded by the Light"		Californication	Lock 'n Load	Walker Payne (2006) Jason Patric. (CC)		
	581	566	101 MTV	Super Sweet	Teen Cribs	MTV Live	After	The Real World "D.C." (CC)		Super Sweet	Teen Cribs	MTV Live
	261	394	102 V	Doc Martin and the Legend		Poltergeist: The Legacy		Love Me Tender ★★ (1956, Western) Elvis Presley, Richard Egan.				
	-	-	103 MUL	Sewing Maid	Immortal	State Secret		To Be Announced		Pinoy: That's Entertainment		Patrol World

Keyshia pregnant and engaged
After months of Internet speculation and rumours, singer Keyshia Cole is coming clean: Yes, she's planning a wedding with her NBA star fiancé, Daniel Gibson of the Cleveland Cavaliers. Yes, she's pregnant with their first child. PEOPLE.COM

Hard times in '80s

High Life built on strong characters

ADAM NAYMAN
for Metro Canada

Magician-turned-filmmaker Gary Yates' 2004 debut Seven Times Lucky was the trickiest movie ever to be set in Winnipeg — at least until the release of High Life, a twisty crime thriller adapted from Lee McDougall's award-winning play.

"I think (Winnipegers) get a kick out of it," says the director, who moved to the city after being born in Montreal. "It's fun to see the place you live on screen."

McDougall's dialogue-heavy drama about four drug-addicted parolees planning to rip off a series of ATMs doesn't specify a setting, so Yates' choice to shift the action to the 'Peg could be construed as an act of civic pride.

But his other changes — including moving the action to the early '80s — speak to something deeper.

"You forgive a lot more on stage," says Yates, who fortuitously came across McDougall's play while he was writing his own script about a heist gone wrong.

"But, I just couldn't buy the idea that these guys — even if they were drug-addled thieves — would believe they could pull that scam off today.

"In the early '80s, (ATMs) were new, not as sophisticated, no computers. And then that opened up a whole new theme for me: I was able to make a movie about these guys who were hung over from the '70s, trying to deal with this fast, new, drive-thru generation."

"I've made movies about losers, but I don't judge them. And I hope that the audience doesn't judge them either."
Canadian filmmaker Gary Yates

Even as he was reshaping the material, however, Yates says that he felt a sense of responsibility towards McDougall's characters.

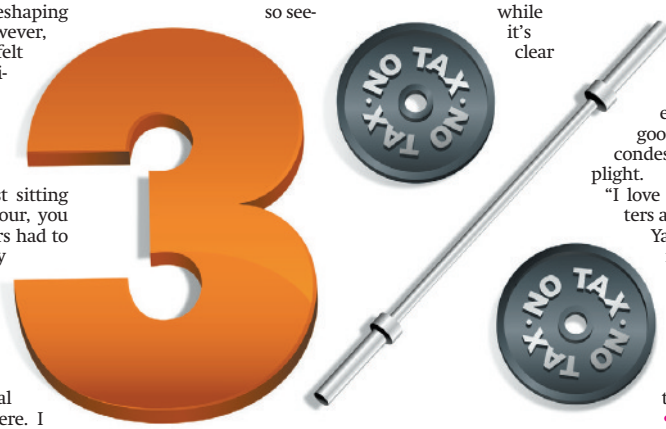
"For a play to be able to function with four guys just sitting on chairs for an hour, you know the characters had to be strong. They were perfect. So writing High Life was like writing a sequel and a prequel to the play, but the heart of the original is still right in there. I saw it as riffing — expanding where the guys came from, and also seeing where they ended up."

A group of drug-addled parolees go on a crime spree in Canadian crime thriller High Life, based on Lee McDougall's play.

And while it's clear from High Life's opening scenes that these ambitious but oblivious characters aren't going to end up anywhere good, the film avoids condescending to their plight.

"I love all of my characters and I always have," Yates says. "I've made movies about losers, but I don't judge them. And I hope that the audience doesn't judge them either."

• High Life opens in theatres this Friday



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German auteur an arthouse phenomenon

ADAM NAYMAN
for Metro Canada

"My films would not be the films they are if current cinema was not in the state it's in now."

So said Michael Haneke at the London Film Festival press conference for his newest film, The White Ribbon, an obliquely rendered drama about the mysterious goings-on in a rural German hamlet on the eve of Second World War, which won the Palme D'or at Cannes (in addition to a number of other prizes).

Given the Austrian auteur's love of cruel irony — think of the scene in (both versions of) Funny Games where a terrified woman accidentally flags down a car containing her assailants — it's worth pointing out that Haneke has had a not inconsiderable influence on this supposedly toxic cinematic climate.

His 1989 debut The Seventh Continent, which cast its clinical gaze at a modern Austrian family as they unravelled behind closed doors, won acclaim on the international festival circuit and thus emboldened an entire generation of anxiety-mongering art-house filmmakers, from Gaspar Noe (Irreversible) to Andrea Arnold (Red Road).

Code Unknown (2000) used a splintered narrative architecture to diagram racial and social divisions in present-day Paris: It's a great film, but it also unfortunately provided inspiration for a decade's worth of puzzle-box narratives.

Michael Haneke's The White Ribbon has won several prizes.

The commercial breakthrough of Cache in 2005 put Haneke in a rare position: That of a European auteur being embraced by the American mainstream. That he chose to spend his Cache cachet on a shot-for-shot Hollywood remake of his own 1997 "anti-thriller" Funny Games speaks to a kind of pedagogical obsession, although he insisted in our phone interview that he didn't "have any fear of being misunderstood."

The director's refusal to do any phone interviews for The White Ribbon means journalists can't press him on this last point — which would be appropriate in light of the new film's aggressive explication of its own carefully prepared mysteries.

Haneke's visual mastery and steadfast desire to take audiences out of their comfort zones are admirable. But as he enters his third decade as an enfant terrible, the really difficult question might be this: can a filmmaker bent on prodding the status quo survive his own transformation into an art-house brand name?

• The White Ribbon opens in theatres this Friday.

9-1-1 call reveals Murphy's final minutes

DEATH A 9-1-1 call released Friday reveals the frantic efforts by Brittany Murphy's mother and husband to save the actress' life on the morning she died.

Murphy's mother, Sharon, is heard crying and telling a fire dispatcher that the actress wasn't breathing.

The dispatcher then gives directions to Sharon Murphy on how to try to revive Murphy. She relays the information to Murphy's husband, Simon Monjack, who had already started CPR and is heard in the background trying to revive the actress.

"My daughter's passed out," Sharon Murphy tells the dispatcher, adding that the actress had been ill, had vomited and was feeling dizzy. She states that her daughter wasn't taking any medication.

Brittany Murphy, 32, was found in the bathroom of her Hollywood Hills home on Dec. 20 and was later pronounced dead at a local hospital.

Coroner's officials are awaiting the results of toxicology tests to determine how she died. They have said the family reported Murphy was ill with flulike symptoms in the days before her death.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Box office

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theatres, according to The Associated Press:

1. **Avatar:** $48.5 million US
2. **Sherlock Holmes:** $16.6 million
3. **Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel:** $16.3 million
4. **Daybreakers:** $15 million
5. **It's Complicated:** $11 million
6. **Leap Year:** $9.2 million
7. **The Blind Side:** $7.8 million
8. **Up In The Air:** $7.1 million
9. **Youth In Revolt:** $7 million
10. **The Princess and The Frog:** $4.7 million

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Celebrity Buzz

Perry paves a path of tweeting clues

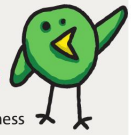
IS BABY BRAND ON THE WAY? Katy Perry has got people.com curious about whether she is, or isn't, pregnant. People.com admits it may be reading between the Tweets, or the 25-year-old singer is sprinkling clues she's having a baby with new fiancé Russell Brand.

It started with her Jan. 1 message: "Let me tell you 2010 is BUMPIN!" Then on Friday, Perry wrote, "Hey @rustyrockets" — Brand's Twitter name — "i heard ur prego-ed." She adds, "I WANT IN AND OUT," a Southern California hamburger chain, before telling Brand, "I love you … (awwwww barf!)."

The website says it is all very cryptic, but adds it was only a few days ago that Perry made oblique song lyric references on Twitter — before Brand came out and confirmed they were engaged on New Year's Eve.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity tweets



Jon Favreau lives with some tough critics, Heidi Montag finds happiness and Ellen DeGeneres gets around

• @Jon_Favreau It's a split decision. My 8 year old thought Avatar was better, but my 6 year old went with the Squeakquel.
• @heidimontag just got the best spray tan! I haven't been tan is so long! I wish it would last forever, maybe one day
• @TheEllenShow I'm on the cover of Entertainment Weekly with Simon! Shhh, don't tell Oprah I'm covercheating on her.

METRO WORLD NEWS

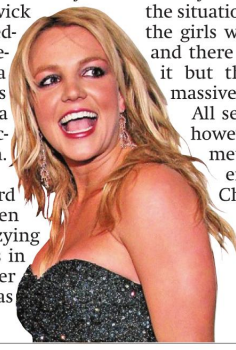
Brit's beau spotted with not one, but two babes!

HE'S GOT SOME EXPLAINING TO DO A night on the town nearly spelled the end for Britney Spears and boyfriend Jason Trawick, according to the Daily Mirror. Trawick was reportedly spotted recently at a Los Angeles bar with a pair of attractive women.

"When she heard he'd been caught cozying up two girls in The Roger Room, it was the last straw," a source tells the newspaper. "Jason's really not like this and quickly tried to calm Britney down and rectify the situation. He explained the girls were just friends and there was nothing in it but they still had a massive row."

All seems to be well, however, as the pair met up this weekend at the Chateau Marmont and left together.

METRO WORLD NEWS



'We really, really love each other'

TWICE CONFIRMED Here's one way to battle divorce rumours: One year after they tied the knot, Josh Duhammel and Fergie reportedly renewed their vows in a private ceremony in Santa Barbara, Calif., according to Radar Online.

METRO WORLD NEWS

On the market again...

FRIENDLY SPLIT After a few months happily dating electrician Jamie Padgett, Pamela Anderson is reportedly on the market again, according to Radar Online.

"Pam made it pretty clear she is no longer dating Jamie and that she was looking for a new love interest," a source says. "She didn't have anything bad to say about him and described him as a 'sweet guy' and that she hoped they would remain friends."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Be careful with your compliment

STRANGE ADMIRATION Sharon Stone has a lot of admiration for Meryl Streep — she just has a funny way of showing it. "She looks like a woman we can all relate to," the Basic Instinct star tells Tattler magazine. "I look at her and I think, 'I'm chasing my kids, I've moved my parents in with me, I'm coping with food spills — that looks like me in real life.' Meryl looks like an unmade bed, and that's what I look like."

METRO WORLD NEWS

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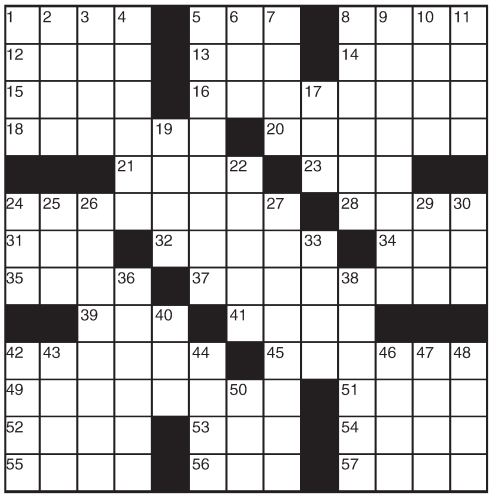
Take Five



1 With (Fr.)
5 Recipe meas.
8 Sleeping
12 Prima donna
13 Regret
14 Give a darn
15 Tel —
16 American dessert
18 Pepperdine University site
20 Type of bird dog
21 Intentions
23 Square root of IX
24 Draw near
28 Despot
31 Meadow
32 Porch
34 Compass pt.
35 Get your second wind
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39 — Beta Kappa
41 Architect Saarinen
42 Scottish landowners
45 Many Christmas decorations
49 Highly pertinent
51 Hawaiian island
52 Acute
53 Fleur-de- —
54 Of the ear
55 Being (Lat.)
56 Chances, for short
57 Dilbert's workplace

DOWN

1 Leading man?
2 "— Las Vegas"
3 Satan's specialty
4 Fancy fish eggs
5 Disordered mental states
6 Dine
7 Energizes, with "up"
8 Vinegary
9 Christened
10 One of a Great quintet
11 Antelope's playmate
17 Garland from
19 Life stories, for short
22 Range
24 Matterhorn, for one
25 "The Princess and the —"
26 Primitive wind instruments
27 Despairing
29 Blackbird
30 Tyrannosaurus —
33 Actress Gilpin
36 Royal perch
38 Worthless
40 Egos' counterparts
42 10-Down, e.g.
43 Tarzan's cronies
44 Missile shelter
46 Loathe
47 Not that
48 Leeches do it
50 Gratuity

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	9		3		8	1		
	8			2	4			
		7					5	
		6			1			3
4								9
5			2			4		
	6					7		
			7	5			8	
		1	8		6		3	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

1	9	2	4	7	3	5	6	8
6	3	7	8	1	5	4	9	2
8	4	5	2	6	9	3	7	1
2	6	9	3	5	7	1	8	4
4	5	1	9	8	2	6	3	7
3	7	8	1	4	6	2	5	9
9	8	6	5	2	4	7	1	3
5	1	4	7	3	8	9	2	6
7	2	3	6	9	1	8	4	5

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Tasty Tuna Fishcakes

INGREDIENTS:

1 lb (500 g) potatoes, peeled and cut into chunks
2 tbsp (25 mL) butter
1 tbsp (15 mL) creamed horseradish
2 tbsp (25 mL) chopped fresh parsley
3 scallions, chopped
3/4 cup (175 mL) canned corn, drained
6 oz (170 g) can tuna chunks, drained
2 tbsp (25 mL) flour
2 tbsp (25 mL) canola oil

METHOD:

To serve
Tartar sauce and lemon wedges

1. Cook potatoes in pot of boiling water 15-20 minutes. Drain, then return to pot with butter and mash until very smooth.

2. Add horseradish, parsley, scallions and corn to hot mashed potato and stir; add tuna and season to taste. Let cool slightly.

3. Shape mixture into eight thick flat cakes, each measuring 2 3/4 in. (7 cm) in diameter. Dust on both sides with flour.
4. Heat oil in large frying pan. Add fish cakes and cook over medium heat 3-4 minutes per side or until well browned, turning with slotted spatula. Serve hot with tartar sauce and lemon wedges.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
You should not be waiting for others to tell you what to do, you should be out there doing it for yourself. What are you waiting for?

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
You may be reserved by nature but that does not mean you don't want to get ahead in the world. You are determined to reach the top.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
You can do no wrong at the moment. Both in your personal life and at work you are the center of attention, and rightly so.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Do opposites really attract? Yes they do and someone who is as different from you as it is possible to get will catch your eye.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Everyone has daydreams but you seem to be enjoying more than your fair share at the moment.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
You will be on the best of terms with everyone today, but one particular individual will get the full Virgo treatment: you'll make them feel like a star.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
It's a good thing you know how to juggle several things at once because your commitments are beginning to get out of hand.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
You would be the first to admit that you have made a few enemies and one of them will cause you some trouble today.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
Try not to be too annoyed if someone you live or work with lets you down today. It may turn out to be a blessing in disguise.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Be careful what you say over the next 24 hours because your words may sound harsher than you intended.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
You may not be much looking forward to the week ahead but it will be a lot more fun than you imagine, so start looking around for reasons to be happy.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
The planets indicate that friends and colleagues will help you out in any way they can – all you have to do is ask.

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